

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this Application, as presently amended and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

This Amendment is in response to the Office Action mailed on June 7, 2004. Claims 1, 4, 7, 8, 12, and 15 are pending in the Application and stand rejected. Claims 3-5, 9, 11-13, 15, and 16 have been objected to as being dependent upon rejected base claims, but would be allowed if rewritten in independent form. Claims 1, 4, 7, 8, 12, and 15 are amended and Claims 2, 3, 5, 6, 9-11, 13, 14, and 16 are cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer by the present Amendment.

Applicant acknowledges with appreciation the indication of allowable subject matter. In response, Claim 1 is amended to incorporate the subject matter of Claims 2 and 3.

Summarizing the outstanding Office Action, the drawings were objected to because of informalities. Claim 14 was objected to under 37 C.F.R. §1.75(c) because of an informality. Claims 1-16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph for being indefinite. Claims 1, 2, 7, and 10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Erven et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,143,254, hereinafter "Erven"). Claims 1, 2, 7, 8, 10, and 14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Bayliss et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,440,876, hereinafter "Bayliss") in view of Erven. Claim 6 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Whittenberger (U.S. Patent No. 4,928,485, hereinafter "Whittenberger").

In view of the cancellation of Claims 2, 3, 5, 6, 9-11, 13, 14, and 16 and the amendment of Claim 1 to recite the subject matter of Claim 2 and the allowable subject matter of Claim 3, Applicants respectfully submit that the above-summarized anticipation and obviousness rejections are now moot. Their withdrawal is respectfully requested.

IN THE DRAWINGS

The attached sheets of drawings include changes to FIG. 12, 14, and 19. The first sheet, which includes FIGS. 12-17, replaces the original sheet including FIGS. 12-17. The second sheet, which includes FIGS. 18 and 19, replaces the original sheet including FIGS. 18 and 19.

Attachment: Replacement Sheets (2)

In response to the objection to the drawings, Applicants have submitted herein an amendment to Applicants' specification and replacements for FIGS. 12, 14, and 18, correcting the informalities noted by the Examiner and respectfully request reconsideration of the objection thereto. Applicants respectfully submit that no new matter has been added to the above-referenced application by the replacement drawings submitted. Furthermore, Applicants have also amended the abstract of the disclosure for compliance with standard U.S. practice.

The cancellation of Claim 14 makes moot the objection thereto. As such, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of that objection.

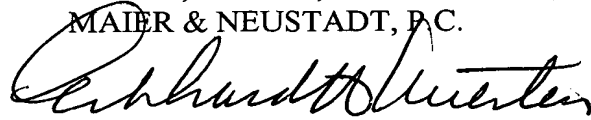
In response to the rejection of Claims 1-16 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, Applicants have amended the claims to overcome this rejection and respectfully request its withdrawal. It is believed that all pending claims are definite and no further rejection on that basis is anticipated. If, however, the Examiner disagrees, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned who will be happy to work with the Examiner in a joint effort to derive mutually acceptable language.

Consequently, in view of the present amendment, no further issues are believed to be outstanding in the present application, and the present application is believed to be in condition for formal Allowance. A Notice of Allowance for Claims 1, 4, 7, 8, 12, and 15 is earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner deem that any further action is necessary to place this application in even better form for allowance, the Examiner is encouraged to contact Applicants' undersigned representatives at the below listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,

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